Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

News

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

Montana State Library

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1987 "Year of the Reader"

On Monday, March 30th, Governor Ted Schwinden signed a proclamation in celebration of National Library Week, April 5-11. The proclamation echoed the contents of Public Law 99-494 and the Presidential Proclamation declaring 1987 as "The Year of the Reader". As we celebrate the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, a document which every American should be able to read, and as we promote national and local literacy programs, it is fitting to foster reading as a national theme. Our own Montana literary heritage provides an additional incentive for promoting reading, readers and libraries here in Montana.

Governor Ted Schwinden presents the "Year of the Reader" proclamation to Margy Rolando, Office of Public Instruction, representing school libraries; Lawrence Maxwell, Butte, President of the Montana Library Association; Suzy Holt, Shodair Hospital, representing special libraries; Sara Parker, State Librarian, Helena; and Paul Dunnam, Commissioner of Higher Education's Office, representing academic libraries.

CD Policy Packet
CD Policy Help

Libraries preparing collection development policies in accordance with the Montana State Library Commission's "Blacktail Statement" may wisn to request a packet of free information about collection development policies. The packet contains an outline of policy elements, samples of important segments and collection descriptions with goals, and a general explanation of policy purpose. To receive your packet contact: Mary Bushing, Library Development Officer, Library Development, Montana State Library, 1515 E. 6th Avenue, Helena, MT 59620, 444-3115.

Remember to send a copy of your adopted or revised policy to Mary Bushing at the State Library. Policies will be kept on file as evidence of eligibility for grants and project participation as stated in "The Blacktail Statement".

SEE YOU IN BUTTE!

Montana Libraries Receive LIRN Grants

The Fred Meyer Charitable Trust under its Library and Information Services for the Northwest (LISNW) program has awarded 17 coordinated collection grants totaling $1,000,000. The projects being funded were selected from 31 applicants who responded to a Request for Proposals issued in 1986. Each project will be funded for 3 years.

Twenty-two Montana libraries are participating in 3 of the 17 projects representing approximately $300,000 of the total award. The participants include 3 public libraries, 8 academic libraries, 10 special libraries and 1 academic consortium. It is hoped that these multi-type projects can serve as models to demonstrate the most effective selection, processing and management of regional resources. The projects focus on [illegible] libraries and [illegible] of shared resources - [illegible] of support to education and research activities [illegible] - [illegible] "[illegible]" - [illegible] [illegible] - [illegible] [illegible] - [illegible] [illegible]

finance the building of a new school, additional classrooms in existing buildings and expanded/upgraded library facilities for all the elementary schools. The projects were recommended by building level committees composed of parents, teachers, and administrators.

Statewide CE Committee Activated

The Statewide Continuing Education Committee will be coordinating a needs assessment in preparation for the development of a Montana Plan for Library Continuing Education. The Needs Assessment project will include focus group meetings around the state this summer (Missoula 7-20; Billings 7-21; Miles City 7-22; Havre 7-23) to provide initial input from librarians and others for the project facilitator, Dr. Darlene Weingand of the University of Wisconsin School of Library and Information Studies and Extension Communication Programs. Following the group meetings, Dr. Weingand will prepare a needs assessment questionnaire to be mailed to librarians, trustees, school, university and institution administrators and others associated with libraries and librarians throughout Montana. The final Plan is expected to be completed by January 1988. Please mark the meeting dates on your calendar and look for additional information about this important project in the coming months.

HB603/State Aid Bill

The House Appropriations Committee voted Tuesday, March 17 to table HB603 the "Omnibus State Aid Bill" for Montana libraries. The vote came after the Committee approved an amendment to the bill resulting in a reduced price tag for the biennium rather than the $2.8 million originally requested in the bill. The approved amendment dropped the $1 per capita and $1 per square mile for public libraries, leaving the statewide library card for $300,000; interlibrary loan reimbursement for $200,000; aid to federations $390,000 -- $890,000 for the biennium. Five members of the Committee voted against tabling the bill.

New Library Development Officer

Mary Bushing has joined the staff of the Montana State Library as Library Development Officer. A graduate of the Library School at Rosary College in Illinois (Mary) has had experience in both public and special libraries in Illinois and Montana. The most recent experience was at Parmly Billings Library where, as part of her responsibilities, she coordinated the LSCA funded Core Collection Project in the South Central Federation.

Work with collection development and continuing education will be two areas of concentration for Bushing as well as consulting for public libraries and trustees.

Around the State

Georgia Lomax has been named Director of Flathead County Public Library, Kalispell. Lomax will assume the duties beginning June 1, 1987.

On Monday-Friday of National Library Week, the Helena Area Librarians Organization (HALO) sponsored activities at work in the Capitol Rotunda, Helena. Monday featured Native American Storytelling by Agnes Fey and "Bully" (Theodore Roosevelt) by Ken Duda. Technology in libraries was demonstrated on Tuesday featuring compact disc, online searching, software packages used in special and school libraries, online public access catalog and technological solutions from the Kellogg IGLIS Project. Wednesday's emphasis was library based literacy projects in Montana. IBM also participated on Wednesday demonstrating the library software they are developing. Thursday's focus was a talk on the literary heritage of Montana by Bill Lang from Montana Historical Society. On Friday, the library for the blind and physically handicapped and institutional libraries demonstrated Brailling by Phyllis Hanka, talking books, recording books, and a slide show on services to the blind and physically handicapped.

American Library Association's prestigious Trustee Association Honor Award was presented to the Havre Medical Clinic doctors who are recognized for their donation of the old Havre Clinic Building to be used as a new library facility. This major benefaction to the Havre-Hill County Library was recognized nationally by the ALA organization and celebrated at a reception on Sunday afternoon, April 5. This was the largest single gift to any library in the United States during the past year. Hill County's Betty Pikovsky was selected as the state library trustee of the year for her work on the consolidation of the Havre-Hill Library.

Doctors honored for this donation include: Robert McCroskey, Frank Miller, Gene Kurtz, James E. Elliott, Thomas Booth, Robert Henderson, Lawrence Harris, Michael Nolan, Lawrence Stretford and Robert Whipple.

Sheila Cates of Library Development, Montana State Library, being interviewed by television KTVH newscaster Ian Marquand at the capitol rotunda. Her comments concerned the displays occurring during National Library Week.

Library Law Revision Meetings

The Montana State Library Commission's Law Revision Committee would like to hear from all Montanans concerning the existing Montana laws affecting public libraries and the federations. The Committee will conduct six area meetings in May and June to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas about the laws and possible changes.

The public library in each of the six communities will host the meetings. The schedule is: May 4, Miles City, 1-5 PM; May 5, Glasgow, 1-5 PM; May 16, Havre, 1:00 PM; June 4, Missoula, 7:00 PM; June 6, Billings, 1:00 PM; June 13, Bozeman, 1:00 PM.

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